

Historical Note on the Translations of Kaigoharnama

Kaigoharnama, the history of Gakkhars has remained a well known book throughout Pothohar since its composition in 1724-25. The primary reason behind its popularity is the historical topic of the book along with its linguistic merit and creative poetry. It still arouses the curiosity of the common man and the researcher alike as a relic of the past and as an original source of information about contemporary events that took place in Pothohar and adjoining areas during the 18th and 19th centuries.

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Since 2022, I have made a concerted effort to locate the earliest translations of Kaigoharnama into other languages. The most popular and authentic translation of the Kaigoharnama into Urdu was carried out by Raja Muhammad Yaqub Tariq in 1956 [1]. This was the first published translation and found wide circulation followed by 02 further editions in 1986 and 1996 [2, 3]. The manuscript of Kaigoharnama, which served as the source of this translation was later incorporated in the first Farsi edition of the Kaigoharnama published in 1965 [4]. But this translation of the Kaigoharnama was not the first of its kind. I have been able to identify at least 03 earlier translations that have remained unpublished. The digital copies of 02 of these unpublished translations (serial nos. 1 and 2 in the following table) have been acquired for analysis and comparison purposes. A summary of all translations of Kaigoharnama, published or otherwise, has been included in the following table:

Sr. No.	Title	Language	Translator/Year	Scribe/Year	Status
1.	Kaigoharnama [5]	Urdu	Mian Burhan-ud-Din Qureshi/1904	Muhammad Artasab /1987	Unpublished
2.	Kaigoharnama [6]	Urdu	Unknown/Unknown	Raja Noor Muhammad Khan/1930	Unpublished
3.	Goharnama [7]	Urdu	Syed Abu Zafar Nadvi/1944	Not Available	Unpublished
4.	Tarikh-e-Gakkharan [1]	Urdu	Raja Muhammad Yaqub Tariq/1956	Not Applicable	Published
5.	Kaigoharnamah, The Ghakhars through History [8]	English	Sultan Zahur Akhtar/2004	Not Applicable	Published
6.	Kaigoharnama [9]	Urdu	Sultan Zahur Akhtar/2007	Not Applicable	Published

The earliest known translator Mian Burhan-ud-Din Qureshi (serial no. 1 in the preceding table) also transcribed at least 02 copies of the Kaigoharnama [10]. For a detailed description of all known manuscripts of Kaigoharnama, the reader is referred to 'Historical Note on Extant Manuscripts of Kaigoharnama', ver. 1.2, dated 7th May, 2024. The manuscript of the translation

by Mian Burhan-ud-Din contains attempts at simplifying the language and description of the Urdu rendering in the form of brief explanatory phrases added inside parenthesis throughout the text. It is probable that these phrases were added by the translator himself for simplifying the understanding of the text by the general readers.

The manuscript of the translation of Kaigoharnama that has been transcribed by Raja Noor Muhammad Khan (serial no. 2 in the preceding table) contains no information about the translator or when the translation was carried out. The manuscript of the translation forms the second part of a large volume, the first part being a long descriptive pedigree table of the aforementioned scribe.

At present, the whereabouts of the manuscript of the translation of Kaigoharnama by Syed Abu Zafar Nadvi are unknown. The only evidence we have about the existence of the translation are an article by the author himself and 02 correspondence notes that were published in 04 separate issues of the literary magazine Ma'arif (Azamgarh) in 1947 and 1949, respectively [11-13, 7]. The manuscript was still unpublished as late as February, 1952 [14].

Kaigoharnama was first translated into English by Sultan Zahur Akhtar in 2004. This was followed by an Urdu translation by the same author in 2007. Both of these translations suffer from the shortcoming that the translator has mixed his own observations and comments in the text while rendering the Farsi manuscript of Kaigoharnama in his possession into English and Urdu. This has severely undermined the reliability of these translations.

References

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6. Unknown, Kaigoharnama (Urdu), Tayyab Sultan Kayani Collection (Village Sukho, Gujar Khan), Unknown, (Transcribed: 1930).
7. Syed Abu Zafar Nadvi, "Gakkharon ki Tarikh", Ma'arif, Vol. 63, No. 3, 1949, pp. 232-235.
8. Sultan Zahur Akhtar, Kaigoharnamah, The Ghakhars through History, TepTex International, Rawalpindi, 2004.
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10. Hasan Nawaz Shah, Tazkara-e-Ullama-i-Gujar Khan, Unpublished Manuscript, Rawalpindi, 2024.
11. Syed Abu Zafar Nadvi, "Gakkharnama", Ma'arif, Vol. 60, No. 1, 1947, pp. 64-76.
12. Syed Abu Zafar Nadvi, "Gakkharnama", Part 2, Ma'arif, Vol. 60, No. 2, 1947, pp. 117-129.
13. Unknown, "Gakkharon ki Tarikh", Ma'arif, Vol. 59, No. 5, 1947, pp. 394-395.
14. Raja M. Aslam Khan, "Gakkharon ki Tarikh ka Gumshuda Warq", Ma'arif, Vol. 69, No. 2, 1952, pp. 109-125.

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